



Est. 1885

Newcastle Preparatory School

Candidate Information Pack



Welcome to

Newcastle Preparatory School

Continue your career with us

Situated in Jesmond, Newcastle Preparatory is the only independent co-educational school in Newcastle which specialises in providing the very best education for children from 3 to 11 years of age.

Welcome

from the Head



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Class Teacher at Newcastle Preparatory School. I hope that by reading the information provided about the school and the job particulars, you are keen to apply to be part of our dedicated team of professionals.

Newcastle Preparatory School boasts a history of nearly one hundred and forty years of educational excellence in the heart of Jesmond. Within our beautiful, historical building, we balance strong traditional roots with a thoroughly modern education and well-resourced facilities. The children of NPS are at the centre of all we do. Ensuring that children feel valued, cared for and safe within our warm and nurturing environment, enables each child to feel ready to learn. We firmly believe that when children are happy, they succeed in all areas of their life and can truly engage in the holistic education provided.

We encourage a culture of learning and development within our staff, as much as we do with the children in our care. Teachers benefit from regular learning opportunities and a development review process supported by senior colleagues. As we are welcoming applications from early career teachers, we are confidently able to offer support and training through this induction programme to teaching.

Other benefits which are available to teaching staff include free lunches and refreshments within term time, fee remission for their children on roll, generous holidays, a private pension and free annual flu jab, plus optional enrolment on Cycle2Work and corporate Metro pass schemes. The school staff well-being champions also seek to ensure that teachers are supported in what can be a very busy and demanding role.

Due to the family-orientated nature of our school, all staff contribute to the feeling of community, running extra-curricular clubs, attending social events with families and supervising children outside of the core teaching hours.

The school is currently thriving and is a happy, supportive environment to work in. I look forward to welcoming a passionate new member of staff to enhance our team further.

Wishing you luck throughout our recruitment process.

Miss Gemma Strong

The Leadership

Alongside our Head Teacher, Miss Strong, we have a passionate and dedicated management team who work together to ensure the efficient running of the school and very best standards of educational provision.



Mrs Susan Easton | Bursar and Admissions Officer

Mrs Easton manages the admissions process, ensuring that prospective parents have all of the information they need from an enquiry right up to their first day at NPS. She also manages the finance office, budgets and has responsibilities for health and safety. Mrs Easton is part of our HR team, writing contracts and assisting with recruitment processes.



Mr Peter Fargher | Pastoral Assistant Head

With a wealth of experience in this area, Mr Fargher oversees pastoral issues across the school. Working with our caring form teachers and support staff, he works on an individual or small group basis with children where need arises. Mr Fargher also organises whole school events and initiatives to raise the profile of wellbeing and community.



Mrs Natalie Johnson | Personalised Learning Assistant Head

Mrs Johnson monitors learning throughout school to ensure that all pupils are achieving their full potential. Where children may have additional needs, due to English being an additional language, a special educational need or that they are more able in a subject area, Mrs Johnson works with children, staff and parents to provide the support which is necessary.



Mrs Amy Porter | Academic Assistant Head

The areas of curriculum, planning and assessment are those key to Mrs Porter's role. She collaborates with staff to ensure that our bespoke NPS curriculum is broad and balanced, inspiring our children to love learning at all ages. This confidence to explore, discover and enjoy their education allows our children to go on to achieve their best.

Our dedicated teachers and support team guide children to be confident, adventurous learners along every step of the way.



The School

Our beautiful school was founded in 1885 as the Newcastle Public Day School Company Limited in just one of the three Victorian townhouses the school now resides in. From the outset, NPS has prided itself on high academic achievement alongside a nurturing ethos.

Now, although the head teacher no longer resides in the school building, you will still find a distinctive family feel. Staff take great pride in getting to know each and every pupil, treating each as an individual and guiding them to reach their goals. Our strong history of achievements continues to thrive with children leaving at 11 with a wealth of offers to independent schools, many also offered scholarships on academic, sporting, musical and artistic merit.

As the only independent co-educational preparatory school in Tyneside, we are able to offer a unique education to children which puts them at the centre of all we do. Specialist teaching and facilities, enriching opportunities and a passion for learning mean that our pupils thrive.



Our school aims and core values are at the heart of life here at NPS.

The school aims to provide an inspiring environment in which pupils feel secure and can grow in confidence, self-esteem and experience success. Furthermore, it aims to create a friendly, caring community, established on mutual respect, where every individual is valued and included; to encourage pupils to confidently explore a broad curriculum, relish a challenge and, working in partnership with families, reach their full potential in all aspects of life.

Our core values inform all that we do. At Newcastle Preparatory School we:



The Structure

Nursery

In the September following their third birthday, children start First Steps Nursery. We offer morning or whole day sessions in our bespoke Nursery facilities.

Reception

The following school year children continue their Early Years education in three small classes in Reception. This year builds on the excellent foundations laid in Nursery.

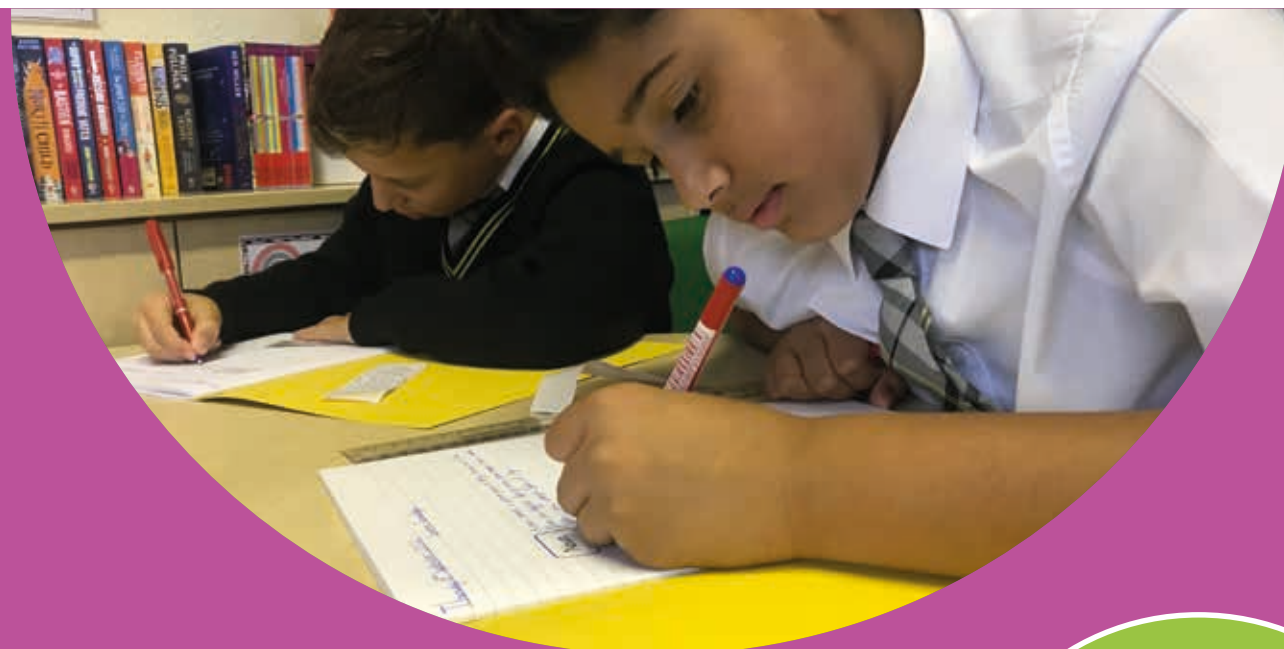
Key Stage 1

We continue to ensure that children have excellent staff to pupil ratios throughout Years 1 and 2, where they begin to explore with greater independence.

Key Stage 2

For Years 3-6 we have two form classes per year group and a wealth of specialist teaching to provide a diverse and stimulating curriculum.

The benefits of an independent education are vast and impact far beyond the eight years pupils spend in our care.



The School Day

8am

With a flexible start, children are welcomed into school to attend clubs or take part in age-appropriate early room provision.

8.30am

Registration time allows children to begin their routine in a consistent way. Educational games and activities take place in form rooms alongside taking the register, assemblies and discussing the exciting day ahead.

9am

The day of timetabled lessons begins. Variety is key at NPS, so no two days of timetable are alike throughout the week.

Lunchtime

All children enjoy a delicious hot lunch served in our dining hall each day. Staff eat with the children to share informal conversation and model table manners. A range of meals are available to choose from with dietary requirements also catered for.

Playtimes

We value time for children to be active and socialise through play. All year groups have at least two playtimes per day, with Early Years having greater access to outdoor facilities.

3pm

From 3pm, we begin a staggered collection time for each year group. Our oldest children in Year 6 finish their learning at 4pm. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in school for late room.

4pm

Many extra-curricular clubs are available after school alongside late room provision which can be attended on a flexible basis.

5pm

For busy parents, we offer an extended late room until 5.30pm every day to allow for later collection. This is flexible and does not need to be booked in advance but does incur a small additional charge.

Children leave school each day full of ideas and tales of their adventures!



The Facilities

At the heart of our school is our stunning **Library**. This light, spacious and inspiring room is home to literary classics, a vast collection of non-fiction books and popular, current children's texts. Whether sharing a story around the tree chair or cosying up to read alone, this is a location loved by all children.

Our **Art Studio** is visited by children from Year 2 upwards to have specialist lessons with our Art Teacher. This highly creative space is permanently adorned with masterpieces which our children take great pride in.

The **Computing Suite** is always a popular location within our school. From an early age, children learn the basics of digital literacy which then rapidly turn into complex coding and computational thinking skills. We are generously equipped with a range of devices, robots and 3D printer.



For Key Stage 2 pupils, our **STEM Hub** enables children to carry out investigations using a range of specialised scientific and robotics equipment in a safe and unique environment using the expertise of our Science and Digital Learning Lead Teachers.

Children relish opportunities to visit the **Music Room**, where instruments are available to enrich the teaching by our Music Teacher. Children regularly participate in ensemble singing, composition and performance as part of the curriculum.

Our sizeable **Sports Hall** is used for PE and Games lessons with our specialist teachers and is fully equipped with gymnastic, trampolining and athletic apparatus. This facility is also home to our productions for parents at regular points throughout the year.



The Facilities

Used for play times, alongside PE and Games lessons, our large **Field** provides an open space for a variety of activities and sports pitches.

The hidden secret of our very own **Forest School** allows children to discover and develop outdoor skills in the safety of our bespoke provision. From Nursery to Year 6, our children are keen craftspeople, wildlife spotters and explorers.

For break times, children use the **Playground** which has a ball court, basketball hoops, climbing adventure equipment, a slide and a variety of puzzles and games to inspire play.



During Nursery and Reception, children use our **Early Years Playground** for outdoor learning opportunities. A vast array of resources are available to children including a climbing frame, scooters, construction materials, cosy play cottage and more.

Our traditional **Dining Hall** is where assemblies and singing practice are held, alongside being where children and staff enjoy a homecooked lunch each day.

The form **Classrooms** throughout NPS are light, bright and inspiring rooms in which to learn. Each teaching room is equipped with an interactive screen, beautiful size-appropriate furniture and high-quality resources.



The Extra-Curricular Opportunities

A wide range of extra-curricular clubs are available to children, provided by teaching and learning staff. Some activities run before registration, some at breaks and lunch times and many take place after the teaching day. Club choices regularly change to offer greater variety. Some recent, popular extra-curricular clubs include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Chess
- Yoga
- Sports Team Training
- Story and Role Play
- Drama
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Embroidery
- Raspberry Pi STEM
- Construction
- Languages
- Technology
- Philosophy and Debate
- Classics
- Dance



NPS participates in many competitions and have seen great success. In recent years, teams from NPS have reached finals of the Primary Maths Challenge, Quiz Club, Raspberry Pi Competition and Jaguar Primary School Challenge, travelling to represent our school nationally.

To enrich the curriculum further, we have visitors into school to host workshops and children regularly take educational visits to add practical, hands-on experience to their learning. Recently, children have visited:

- Centre for Life
- Great North Museum
- Vindolanda
- Beamish
- Alnwick Castle
- Souter Lighthouse
- Holy Island
- Brockwell Woods
- Oriental Museum, Durham
- Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh
- Wharton Park, Durham
- Whitehouse Farm

In Key Stage 2, we also offer residential experiences within the UK and abroad. Staff are actively encouraged to participate in these opportunities.



The Sport

Children at NPS are supported to lead healthy lives, with fitness, exercise and sport being an intrinsic part of this education.

Our specialist teachers provide a broad curriculum of sports which build on the skills taught each year using our excellent facilities. Each individual is encouraged to challenge themselves and participate in the range of activities including team games, individual events and competitive fixtures.

An extensive diary of fixtures and events are attended each year. Key Stage 1 children have opportunities to attend mini sporting festivals and competitions. Once in Key Stage 2, children swim weekly and regularly participate in tournaments and fixtures against other schools in the North East. NPS has long enjoyed many successes in sporting activities.

Staff regularly attend sporting fixtures, including sports days.



We have a firm belief that where each child is happy, they will thrive.



The Arts

Creativity and expression are highly valued at NPS. Opportunities are created for children to explore and participate in many artistic endeavours throughout their years in the school.

All children will share a performance with their family during the school year which usually integrates drama, singing and often dancing too. This is always a heart-warming occasion where children can proudly demonstrate their talents and work collectively to produce outstanding shows. We also host an annual Carol Service before Christmas within which our older children sing and read as part of the traditional service.

During Art lessons, children will discover many different mediums and techniques; they are taught skills but also given freedom to create their own unique responses in the artworks.



Our hallways are filled with glorious pieces created by children, on display to the entire school. NPS regularly produce whole school responses and exhibitions based on themes which are relevant and accessible to pupils of all ages, these are then shared with families.

Within the wider community, our children participate in musical, artistic and dramatic activities. For example, working with local artists to create exhibitions and participating in concerts to name but a few.



The Destinations

The distinctive role of a preparatory school is that of preparing children for the next step in their education.

This not only pertains to academic preparedness, but also the skills necessary for learning, fervour for education and resilience of character which set individuals in the best possible stead. Children in Year 6 at NPS are comfortable, confident and assured in taking their next steps, which invariably go on to be incredibly successful ones.

Our preparation for entrance exams takes place across the school through our vibrant and varied curriculum. However, in Upper Key Stage Two, children receive specialised assistance so that they are fully versed in all types of assessment.

Within the local area, we are fortunate to have superb choices for secondary education after NPS. The relationship between schools is excellent which allows families to make informed choices and for transitions to be smooth.

Children at NPS have a long history of being offered scholarships. This dates back to the first scholarship awarded in 1897 to a pupil; the princely sum of £50 to attend Durham School. We are proud to confirm that this tradition still continues with many awards and scholarships being offered each year for a range of merits, most recently academic, musical, sporting and artistic.

After the best start to their education, there are no boundaries to what our pupils can achieve.

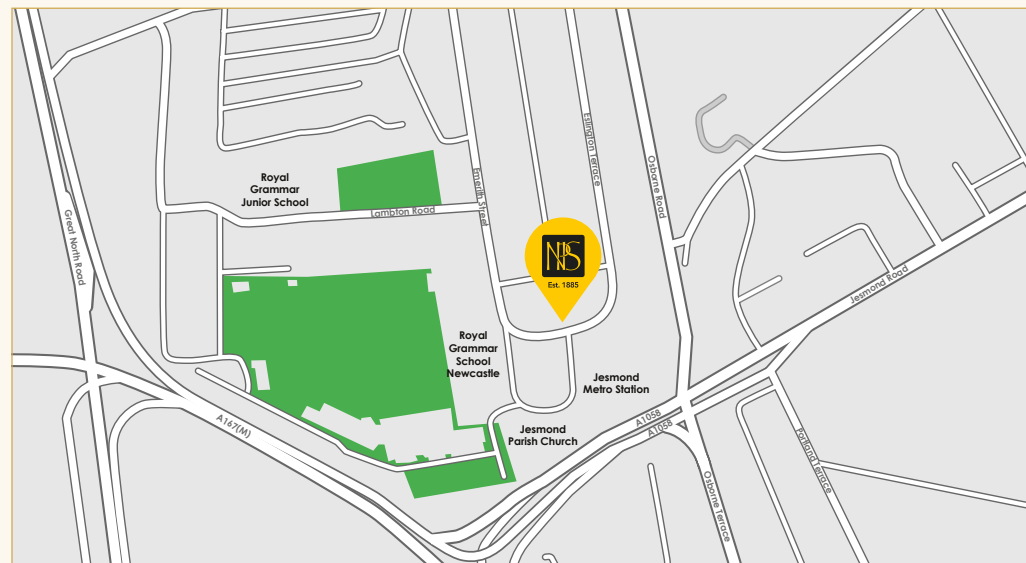


How to find or contact us

We are situated in the suburb of Jesmond, just minutes away from the Newcastle's lively city centre.

Perfectly situated for rail, bus and transport by car, we are directly opposite Jesmond Metro Station.

The school does not have a dedicated car park, but on-street parking and a public car park are available in the immediate vicinity.



For general enquiries, please call the school office

Telephone: 0191 2811769

All applications should be submitted to:

vacancies@newcastleprep.co.uk

Further information can be found on our website

www.newcastleprepschool.org.uk





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